

Trivia

Edward VII

Born in 1841

Crowned in 1901

Died in 1910, aged 68

Reigned for 9 years

Married to Alexandra of Denmark
bearing 3 sons, 3 daughters.

Queen Victoria had a long life and her son, Albert, was approaching sixty by the time he reached the throne. Despite her wishes to the contrary, everyone was amazed he insisted on being crowned Edward VII. However, this was only the first step in him showing his people that he was a very different person to his mother.

He was a very diplomatic king, fearing of the growing German naval forces. He talked his way out of being pressured into an alliance between Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy, despite growing tension between the countries. Instead, he made a quite singular pact with French president, Fallieres. It was called the Entente Cordial (Cordial Understanding) and the king hoped it would clear years of mistrust between the two countries.

Edward loved France, and even backed France when Kaiser William of Germany, his troublesome nephew, tried to lay claim to French Morocco. This, itself, almost started a war but Bertie, as he was more affectionately known, managed to appease his nephew who saw the strength of an English, French and Russian alliance. Despite this, he could not prevent the apparent naval arms race with Germany. He died in 1910, leaving his son George with the looming war with Germany and trouble at home, with a struggle for power between the politicians. The Liberals in the House of Commons were battling with the Conservative encampment in the House of Lords.

Bertie was also known for a number of scandals. At the tender age of twenty he was involved in one when he was sent to serve at the Curraugh army camp, near Dublin. His fellow officers introduced him to a local actress, Nellie Clifton, who *entertained* the troops and the affair soon became public. In 1891, he was involved in the Tranby Croft Scandal,

